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### International Wildlife Film Festival seeks volunteers

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# University of Montana

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE FILM FESTIVAL SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

MISSOULA--

The University of Montana International Wildlife Film Festival will "go public" and create three auxiliary organizations to help conduct the growing volume of festival activities.

The IWFF has announced the formation of a "Friends of the International Film Festival" group and regional and national advisory boards.

Persons interested in the festival and these groups may attend a workshop on the IWFF at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 8, in room 311 of the UM Forestry Building. This year's festival will be Feb. 23-27 on the UM campus.

The main theme of the annual festival is to encourage excellence in wildlife filmmaking and to focus public attention on wildlife issues. Films are entered by filmmakers from around the world and are judged for artistic, technical and scientific quality and audience impact.

According to Dr. Charles Jonkel, founder of the IWFF and a UM forestry research professor, the festival has grown so rapidly that it is "busting out of its seams." He said the time has come for help from UM, Missoula and Montana citizens.

Though the IWFF has had several contributing sponsors, cooperators and grants since it was established in 1977, the bulk of the work has been done by UM students. The festival's primary sponsors have been the UM Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society, a national association of professional wildlife scientists, and the Associated Students of UM, the student body government.

(over)



International Wildlife Film Festival-- add one

This year's festival, the sixth, will be held in conjunction with the Association for Conservation Information, a continent-wide organization of media specialists. The two events will share some of their workshops and social events. ACI activities also will continue through March 1 in several Missoula locations.

Previous festivals have attracted films and people from all over the world-- as many as 45 films in 1981. Speakers have included the head of BBC Natural History Film Unit, a former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service director and professors from the University of California at Los Angeles Media Center.

According to Jonkel, the UM film festival has become a model for other wildlife film events, including at least four copies conducted in 1982 in India, Great Britain, Michigan and New York.

Last year, the IWFF also held a post-festival tour, showing the top prize-winning films in several Montana and western cities.

Jonkel said that some of the work for the festival has become too much for the student groups and the faculty adviser. While the work involving programming, public relations and fund raising is good experience for students, Jonkel said the yearly student turnover makes the production too difficult.

He said he hopes a "Friends" group will provide valuable continuity and "help-when-needed."

For more information, interested persons should call the UM Wildlife Biology Program at (406) 243-5272.

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